

December 8, 2020 Council Meeting

The regular meeting of the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia was held on December 8, 2020 in Council Chambers, Municipal Building, at 7:30 PM with Mayor Kathy Lawson presiding. Other Council Members present included Jim Woods, Danny Turner, Jennifer Bowles and Chad Martin. Staff present included City Manager Leon Towarnicki, Assistant City Manager/City Attorney Eric Monday, Clerk of Council Karen Roberts, Finance Director Linda Conover, Assistant Finance Director Mandy McGhee, Community Development Director Mark McCaskill and Police Chief Eddie Cassady.

Mayor Lawson called the meeting to order. Following the Pledge to the American Flag and invocation by Council Member Woods, Mayor Lawson welcomed everyone to the meeting. She explained that the meeting would follow COVID guidelines and recognized social distancing recommendations.

Approve minutes for the November 10, 2020 Meeting – Council Member Bowles and Council Member Turner stated that they did not receive a copy of the minutes and asked if the approval of these could be moved to the next meeting allowing them time to review.

Recognize City Employees who are eligible for Service Awards for the Period October 1 – December 31, 2020 – City Manager Towarnicki recognized the following employees and their years of service.

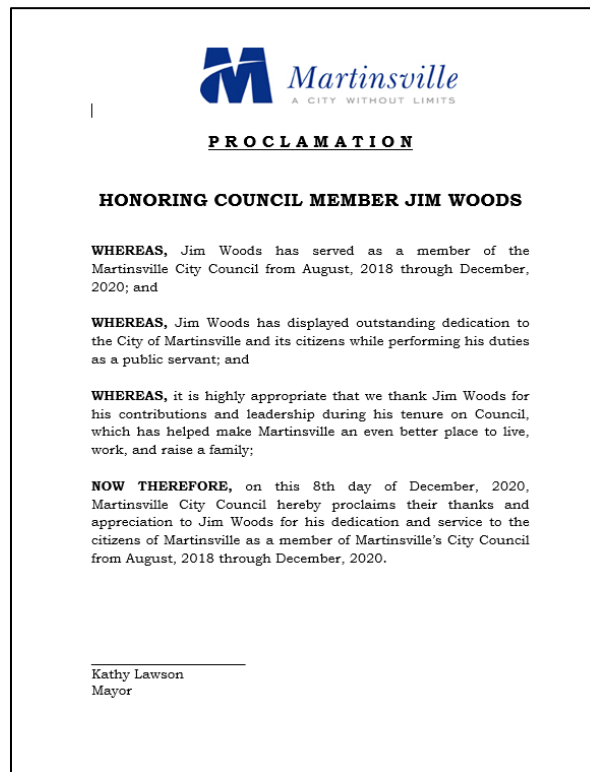
**SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2020**

NAME		DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE
ALAN	WALKER	SHERIFF'S DEPT.	5
TRAVIS	THOMPSON	SHERIFF'S DEPT.	5
JOSEPH	WASHBURN	POLICE DEPT	15
MARY KAY	WASHINGTON	FINANCE	15
TIMOTHY	GARY	SHERIFF'S DEPT.	20
JAMES	COOPER	SHERIFF'S DEPT.	20
BETTY	WAGONER	CIRCUIT COURT	25
ASHBY	PRITCHETT	CIRCUIT COURT	35
DURWIN	JOYCE	ELECTRIC DEPT.	35
EDDIE	CASSADY	POLICE	35

Recognition of outgoing Council Member Jim Woods for his service to the citizens of Martinsville as a Council Member from August 2018 through December 2020 – Mayor Lawson recognized Council Member Woods for his service on City Council and read a proclamation in his honor. Mayor Lawson and Council Members presented Woods a key to the City in addition to other gifts of appreciation. Lawson opened the floor for any comments. Ralph Lawson, 909 Barrows Mill Road shared appreciation from the Martinsville Exchange Club for Woods participation and assistance. City Manager Towarnicki shared a story about Woods from a

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previous VML conference where Woods stood up and boldly sang the National Anthem. Dan Woods, former Martinsville resident and Council Member Woods' father said the family is very proud of Council Member Woods for his service on Council and of his continued service to the public. He is a good citizen and the best is yet to be. Council Member Bowles told Woods that it had been a pleasure to get to know him and work with him; she loves his creative side and he inspired her to participate in Dancing with the Arts. Woods is a highly intelligent man and she wishes him all the best. Vice Mayor Martin said Woods genuinely cares about people. Martin shared that Wood looks at people and their heart, not their color or religion; Martin shared a quote by Theodore Roosevelt in honor of Woods. Mayor Lawson thanked Woods for serving the City. Woods service has enriched the meetings since he has been on Council. Woods says it has been an honor to serve the City and he thanked former Mayor Teague and current Council Members for their support and in guiding him in his position.



Hear a report from Robinson Farmer Cox Associates on the City's FY20 audit – Michael Lupton, representative of RFC Associates directed Council to the Independent Auditor's report while he summarized the FY20 audit of City funds and financial procedures. In FY2020, no significant deficiencies or weaknesses were documented. Lupton commended the City staff, the finance department and City departments for their assistance and for being forthcoming and providing all requested information to complete the audit.

Hear an update from Uptown Partnership – City Manager Towarnicki said the timing of the Uptown Partnership group is perfect and there is a lot of buzz and well-needed energy for redevelopment in Uptown. Lee Prillaman and Natalie Hodge, representatives of Uptown Partnership presented a PowerPoint to update Council on the organization's purpose, who's

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involved, 2020 activities, the organization's progress so far, and what they look to accomplish with the Main Street program. Wayne Draper updated Council on the TAD Center located in the former Rucker Plaza. Draper encourages uptown activity and visiting other uptown businesses when residents visit the TAD Center. Tammy Pearson highlighted her business Shindig located at 37 East Main Street and the updates at that location including the installation of a garage door allowing an open-air concept to the building. Pearson shared that brunch will be offered at Shindig and at her other business, Wild Magnolia. Hodge said they look for opportunities to assist local businesses with attractive business fronts and street appeal. Prillaman shared some information obtained by a secret shopper and their suggestions to make Uptown more appealing.



## Uptown Partnership – 2020/21 Update

- Independent partnership representing local government, businesses, residents, and community organizations
- 501(c)3 nonprofit organization
- Charitable purpose
  - Lessen burden of government
  - Drive community revitalization
  - Historic preservation
  - Public Education



## Uptown Partnership's Purpose

**VISION:** A vibrant Uptown business district

**MISSION:** Drive the growth of the Uptown district by,

- Increasing the stock of high-quality housing options
- Championing diverse businesses, entertainment, and cultural spaces
- Improving the visitor experience
- Supporting the rehabilitation of existing buildings/spaces
- Building a vibrant community identity.



## Who is involved?

### Uptown Partnership Officers/BOD

Jeff Sadler, Acting interim director  
Lee Prillaman, President  
Natalie Hodge, Vice President  
Holly Burton, Secretary  
Beverly Pitzer, Treasurer  
Robert King – Board member  
Leutisha Galloway – Board Member  
Liz Harris – Board Member

Advisory Board Members:  
Lisa Watkins – Chamber of Commerce  
Mark Heath – EDC  
Eric Monday – City of Martinsville  
Tim Hall – Henry County

### 4 Standing committees

Organization - Lee Prillaman  
Promotions – Natalie Hodge  
Design - Sarah Hodges  
Economic Vitality – Robert King  
Supported by 50 plus patrons



## Activities in 2020 - Highlights

### • Organization:

- 501c3 status – in final stages with IRS
- Obtained initial funding commitments
- Applied for recognition as a Designated Virginia Main Street Program - declined
- Applied for Harvest funding
- Received RCDI designation
- Started search for executive director

### • Promotions:

- Created webpage and social media presence
- Actively posting Uptown updates
- Held Vision Walk – 50 participants
- Partnered with Chamber/EDC on Affiliate grant

### Design:

- EDC enhanced lighting,
- Installed 3 window clings
- Held Vision Walk – 50 participants
- Identifying other gathering spaces

### Economic Vitality:

- Applied for CBL
- Narrow focus within business district
- Will partner with re-entry and recovery programs for employment opportunities



## Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI)

Through RCDI, DHCD provides comprehensive capacity building services

### • Program objectives:

- Build and strengthen the organizational capacity of the recipient organization and the broader community
- Engage stakeholders to build a collaborative and active network while assessing community assets, needs, and service gaps
- Provide professional assistance on how to analyze and interpret market studies and use findings to develop and implement a strategic plan
- Cultivate a resilient and sustainable entrepreneurial ecosystem within the locality and/or region to support new economic growth
- Provide funding opportunities to help recipients implement initiatives that align with the community's strategic planning goals



## Is Uptown making progress?

### • YES !!!! Just a few examples

- TAD Center
- Love that Look Hair Salon
- Chief Tassel – renovation has started
- 100 E Main (Ted's men's shop) – painted façade
- MHC Museum – painted façade
- Shindig's new innovative façade
- Southern Properties – painted façade
- Holt Building – first floor renovation
- Sitestar Building – coming soon
- BB&T – contract soon?
- Uptown Brewery – coming soon
- 5 Points groundbreaking
- Site excavation at the American site
- Several new Uptown businesses



### 2021 Focus on transformational strategies

- **Uptown Living** - continue to attract owners/developers for residential spaces
- **Attract Businesses, services & amenities** for Uptown living:
  - Restaurants, coffee shops
  - Cleaners, Bodega, Pet Services, etc
- **Hand-made, Craft-made & Artisan** - authentic and experiential shopping such as:  
Brewery, Silversmith, Cheese-maker,  
Reclaimed Wood Furniture, etc



### Where do we go from here?

- **Promote, promote, promote!**
- **Continue to promote residential build out**
- **Onboard a full-time director for Uptown Pship**
- **Develop design brand/theme for Uptown**
- **Develop artisan center concept to promote locally made**
- **Partner with org's to drive Uptown activities**
- **Identify and drive new outdoor gathering spots**
- **Uptown promenade – lights and action !!**
- **New businesses through the CBL**

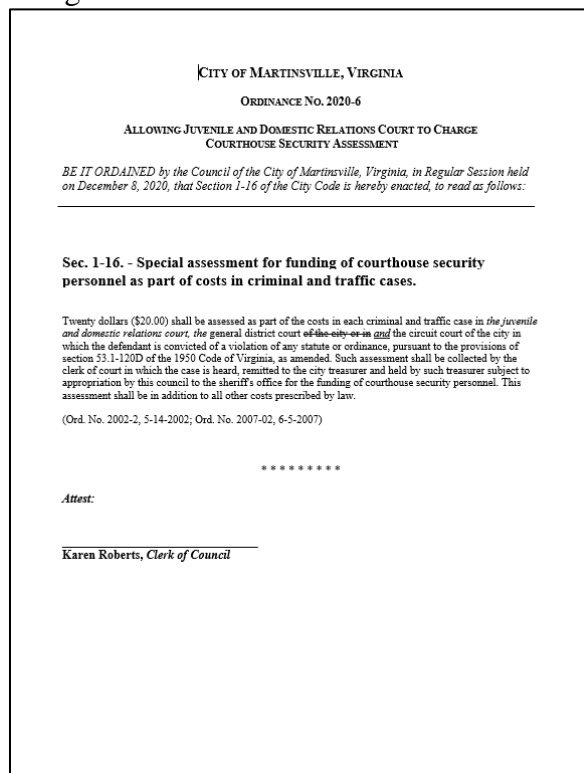


### Our ask – Continued support for:

- **Updated design Study**
- **Clean up and brighten sidewalks and walkways**
- **Re-consider traffic flows**
- **Alignment on architectural standards/themes**
- **Recognition of entry corridors into Uptown**
- **Encourage building owners to enhance/repaint facades**
- **Update signage of key areas, activities, destinations in MHC**
- **Programs to entice new businesses in Uptown**

ADDENDUM Consider an appropriation from the General Fund to transfer to the Capital (16) Fund to cover City capital needs - City Manager Towarnicki explained the need to transfer these funds including emergency work on the Sheriff's Department roof and necessary departmental vehicle repairs. Council Member Woods made a motion to approve the appropriation. Council Member Bowles seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor.

Consider adoption on second reading, Ordinance 2020-6, adding J&DR Court to section 1-16 of the City Code regarding charging courthouse security fees – City Attorney Monday explained the need for the ordinance which was in place previously for the General District and Circuit Court. Council Member Bowles made a motion to adopt the ordinance on second reading. Council Member Bowles seconded the motion with the following 5-0 roll call vote: Council Member Woods, aye; Council Member Bowles, aye; Vice Mayor Martin, aye; Council Member Turner, aye; and Mayor Lawson, aye.



Hear information regarding Historic Tax Credits – City Attorney Monday presented details on the Historic Tax Credits and how those may be used to assist with financing local projects in historic buildings or those locations with historic architecture. Monday detailed the requirements to be considered a contributing structure. Martinsville has several historic districts with locations that could qualify for those credits. The City has applied for grants that could assist with beautification of entryways in those historic buildings. If a location qualifies for tax credits, those credits could pay for up to 45% of the cost of the beautification project for income producing locations or 20% on projects that are private properties or non-income producing locations. There is also the opportunity to sell those tax credits to help pay for out-of-pocket expenses. Historic tax credits are not a DIY project, the application process is complicated and lengthy and he encourages residents to hire a firm with experience to complete the process correctly.

Consider information related to the 2021 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) list – Community Development Director Mark McCaskill directed Council to the Proposed Project Addition page of the CEDS report and summarized those requests. Mayor Lawson asked that “curb and gutter” be added to the revitalization of Amy Avenue. Vice Mayor Martin suggested a space for a pull-in park and the Local Foods/Local Places space if there is any partnership to create a fresh fruit and vegetable park. Council Member Bowles asked that entrance corridors and corridors Uptown should be added. Bowles made a motion to approve the CEDS list as amended. Vice Mayor Martin seconded the motion with all Council Members voting in favor.

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Revitalization of Uptown Business District-City of Martinsville	1/18 Incentivize small businesses (interior makeover/renovator)	EDA	\$900,000	\$900,000	Positive	80
Revitalization of Uptown Business District-City of Martinsville	1/18 Construct retrofit condop/apartments in Uptown	EDA DHCD VHDA City	\$1,000,000 \$300,000 \$500,000 \$200,000	\$2,000,000	Positive	15
Neighborhood Revitalization Project- West End/Pine Hall Rd Neighborhood- Martinsville	1/18 Housing rehab; creation of community space	COBG Local	\$1,000,000 \$250,000	\$1,250,000	Positive	Indirect
Community Development Project - COBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District-City of Martinsville	1/18 Purchase brighted properties on Starting Avenue and adaptively reuse	HUD/NSP HTC	\$700,000 \$300,000	\$1,000,000	Positive	20/Indirect
Southside Community Park Upgrading-City of Martinsville	1/18 Upgrade existing four (4) fields to accommodate youth and college softball and baseball tournaments. This would include new lighting where necessary, upgrade concession stand and new sports surfaces.	DCR EDA ARC VTC Other	\$200,000 \$600,000 \$150,000 \$750,000 \$1,300,000	\$3,000,000	Positive	N/A
Community Development Project - COBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District-City of Martinsville	1/18 Purchase brighted properties, prepare site for development (Draper - West Church Street) - City of Martinsville	Brownfield EDA City	\$400,000 \$325,000 \$100,000	\$825,000	Unknown	100/Indirect
Community Development Project - COBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District-City of Martinsville	1/18 Rives Road Site Development- full site development including A & E, site grading	EDA	\$1,400,000	\$1,400,000	Positive	400
Community Development Project - City of Martinsville	1/18 Further develop lots- at Cleanview Business Park to prepare for companies	EDA	\$750,000	\$750,000	Positive	200+
Community Development Project - City of Martinsville	1/18 Recruit manufacturers of Clean Energy Components to Martinsville Area and Enterprise Zone	EDA	\$100,000	\$100,000	Positive	Indirect
Community Development Project - COBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District-Martinsville	1/18 Upgrade, widen, and landscape Beaver Street from Fayette Street to Memorial Blvd - City of Martinsville	MAP-21 VHDA	\$800,000 \$50,000	\$850,000	Positive	Indirect
Community Development Project - COBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District-City of Martinsville	1/18 Prepare City-owned site at corner of Fayette & Beaver Sts for residential, educational or commercial development - Martinsville Area and Central Business District	EDA Local COBG Grants	\$300,000 \$200,000 \$1,000,000 \$2,000,000	\$3,500,000	Positive	Indirect
Community Development Project - COBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District-City of Martinsville	1/18 Write arts & cultural plan for Arts & Cultural District	NEA City ARC	\$25,000 \$25,000 \$52,000	\$82,000	Positive	Indirect
Community Development Project - COBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District-City of Martinsville	1/18 Enhance Fayette Area Business District facades/greenscape/ economic revitalization - Fayette Street from Moss Street to Memorial Blvd. Planning stipend for Citizens Design - CIRD	COBG Local CIRD Match - IHA	\$1,000,000 \$1,000,000 \$35,000 \$10,000	\$2,045,000	Positive	Indirect
Community Development Project - COBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District-City of Martinsville	1/18 Purchase brighted properties - prepare site for redevelopment (202 Cleveland Avenue) - City of Martinsville	Brownfield EDA City	\$600,000 \$500,000 \$50,000	\$1,900,000	Unknown	150 - Indirect
Community Development Project - COBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District-City of Martinsville	1/18 Work with partners to develop an amphitheater on Depot Street	NEA ARC	\$50,000 \$50,000	\$100,000	Positive	5/Indirect

Community Development Project - COBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District-City of Martinsville	1/18 Acquire and redevelop properties along commercial corridor for reuse	ARC COBG EDA	\$250,000 \$2,000,000 \$1,000,000	\$3,250,000	Positive	50
Community Development Project - COBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District-City of Martinsville	1/18 Develop new (or redevelop existing) location in Uptown Martinsville to serve as community music venue.	IRF ARC HTC	\$600,000 \$200,000 \$300,000	\$1,100,000	Positive	5/Indirect
Community Development Project - COBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District-City of Martinsville	1/18 Commonwealth Corridor Enhancement & Pedestrian linkages to Uptown & Fayette Street	VDOT COBG	\$1,000,000 \$500,000	\$1,500,000	Positive	Indirect
Community Development Project - COBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District-City of Martinsville	1/18 Purchase of West Church Street and/or Fayette Street property, complete feasibility study, adaptive reuse	IRF COBG	\$500,000 \$500,000	\$1,000,000	Positive	20/Indirect
Community Development Project - COBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District-City of Martinsville	1/18 Purchase of Main Street property, complete feasibility study, adaptive reuse	IRF COBG	\$500,000 \$500,000	\$1,000,000	Positive	20/Indirect
Mini Fiber Optic Expansion- City of Martinsville	1/18 Citywide expansion of Minet Martinsville fiber optic and wireless system to reach businesses and homes	EDA Other Local	\$2,000,000 \$11,000,000 \$7,500,000	\$20,500,000	NA	NA
Community Development Project - Hooper Field Upgrades- City of Martinsville	1/18 Upgrades to the concession, seating, and restroom areas at Hooper Field - covered seating, ADA compliant restrooms expanded press box/concession/office space	ARC DCR OTHER	\$200,000 \$500,000 \$1,000,000	\$1,700,000	Positive	N/A
Virginia Museum of Natural History- City of Martinsville	1/18 Construct Outdoor Education Pavilion in rear of VMNH, to include exhibits interpreting eastern North American forest ecology	EDA DCR Local	\$50,000 \$50,000 \$50,000	\$150,000	Positive	NA
Wilson Park Upgrading- City of Martinsville	1/18 Connection of outdoor education pavilion in rear of VMNH with a bridge, crossing over Oakdale Avenue, along with a 1,000 foot canopy loop into the grand old trees in the park.	EDA ARC Other	\$600,000 \$800,000 \$600,000	\$2,000,000	Positive	NA
Community Parks Upgrading- City of Martinsville	1/18 Upgrade nine (9) existing parks (Bardem, Beaver Creek, Jackson Street, West End, J. Russel Mason, Chatham Heights, Cole & Carol St, Victor A. Lester, Spruce St.) to improve accessibility and safety. This would include new lighting where necessary, concession stands, age-appropriate playground equipment and new playing surfaces.	DCR ARC EDA Local	\$200,000 \$300,000 \$300,000 \$800,000	\$1,500,000	Positive	NA

Proposed Project Additions 2021 CEDS						
Community Development Project - Small Business Development Strategic Plan - City of Martinsville	1/18 Write a Small Business Development Strategic Plan for the City of Martinsville. Strategic plan will contain actionable items for the development of and scaling up of small businesses in the City of Martinsville including complementing the roles of existing partners and organizations	EDA ARC Other	\$50,000 \$50,000 \$25,000	\$125,000	Positive	NA
Community Development Project - Small Business Scale-up Grant Program-City of Martinsville	1/18 A grant program guided by the Small Business Development Strategic Plan to assist small businesses in growing, expanding and scaling up within the City of Martinsville	EDA ARC Other	\$100,000 \$100,000 \$100,000	\$300,000	Positive	NA
Community Development Project - Move to Martinsville - City of Martinsville	1/18 Partnering with the "Move to Martinsville" group to place strategic marketing pieces in other geographic markets to communicate the quality of life, value and opportunity to increase the number of people who move to Martinsville from other regions.	EDA ARC OTHER	\$50,000 \$25,000 \$25,000	\$100,000	Positive	N/A
Community Development Project - Amy Avenue - City of Martinsville	1/18 Revitalization of Amy Avenue in the City of Martinsville to include owner occupied rehabilitation, new single family housing and new multi-family housing.	COBG Other/Private	\$500,000 \$500,000	\$1,000,000	Positive	N/A
Community Development Project - 100 Block W Church St - City of Martinsville	1/18 Redevelopment of 100 Block W. Church Street including parcels fronting W Market Street and Moss street into workforce housing.	ARC COBG OTHER	\$400,000 \$400,000 \$400,000	\$1,200,000	Positive	N/A
Community Development Project - Vacant Buildings Inventory Uptown City of Martinsville	1/18 Develop and maintain a vacant buildings inventory for Uptown and if resources permitting other parts of the city. The purpose of the inventory is baseline data so that incentives and/or enforcement can be discussed to encourage property owners to pursue highest and best use of Uptown properties	COBG Other	\$25,000 \$25,000	\$50,000	Positive	N/A

Consider information related to the City proposed 2021 Legislative Agenda – City Attorney Monday pointed out #8 which was added at the request of Council Member Bowles, regarding school resource officers. Monday detailed steps to a referendum if Council chose to make Charter changes later. Council Member Turner made the motion that the City should have the final decision within the City if new state laws are passed related to legalizing marijuana. Council Member Bowles seconded the motion with all Council Members voting in favor. Vice Mayor Martin made a motion to ask the General Assembly to change the name Columbus Day to Indigenous People’s Day. Council Member Bowles seconded the motion with the following voice vote: Martin and Bowles, aye; Turner, Lawson, and Woods, nay. Council Member



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Turner made a motion to approve the Legislative Agenda as amended. Council Member

Bowles seconded the motion with all Council Members voting in favor.



The City of Martinsville appreciates the efforts its legislators undertake at both the state and federal level on behalf of its citizens. Listed below are the City's priorities requested of its legislative delegation in 2020.

**Virginia General Assembly**

**Transportation**

1. In the short term, upgrade those portions of Route 220 overlaying I-73 to interstate standards. Any construction or upgrades to the I-73 corridor should begin on those sections passing through Henry County.
2. Continue to place priority on Route 58 improvements, particularly the section between Stuart and Hillsville, Virginia.
3. Increase VDOT funding for road construction and repaving.

**Education**

1. City Council endorses the concept asserted by Sen. Bill Stanley that the Virginia Constitution and United States Supreme Court precedent requires statewide parity in state funding for school construction, maintenance and operations.
2. City Council endorses the agenda proposed by the Martinsville City School System and also endorses the educational priorities adopted by Henry County, on behalf of its school system.
3. Oppose the imposition of unsided education mandates and in the event of revenue cuts by the Commonwealth opposes targeted cuts by the Commonwealth, instead preferring local decision making authority on where to make any such cuts.
4. Recognizing its potential to promote economic development within our community and region, continue support for the development and funding of the New College Institute in its current location in Uptown Martinsville; urge that any funding reductions to New College Institute, if considered, be minimized to the greatest extent possible; and support all partnership initiatives by The New College Institute with other institutions of higher learning.
5. Request the Commonwealth to fully fund the expenditures imposed upon local school systems by implementing the Standards of Quality.
6. Encourage the Commonwealth to continue or increase the current levels of financial support provided to Patrick Henry Community College.
7. Request the Commonwealth to provide incentives for consolidation of school systems.
8. Continue to support funding for school resource officers and ensure that decisions regarding usage of resource officers in schools remain as a local choice option.

**Economic Development**

1. Maintain current levels of funding for economic development incentives, including but not limited to the Governor's Opportunity Fund.
2. Enhance the authority granted to localities to address and eliminate blighted properties, and the formation of interstate compacts to allow expedited recourse against out-of-state property owners.
3. Increase funding levels for the Virginia Museum of Natural History.

4. Request enhanced state and federal financial assistance for localities which exceed the average state unemployment rate by 150% for a period of five consecutive years.
5. Support continued tourism awareness initiatives in the Martinsville-Henry County region.
6. Expand local authority to designate Enterprise Zones and establish incentives.
7. Oppose efforts by Henry County PSA to reopen the Lower Smith River Wastewater Treatment Plant, absent a regional study concluding that such is in the best interests of Martinsville-Henry County taxpayers, customer base, economic needs and state environmental policy.
8. Expand grants and resources available to fiscally stressed localities, and to business development entities in such localities, to aid in the encouragement or development of small and entrepreneurial businesses.
9. Support the Virginia Grocery Investment Fund, as a public-private initiative to improve nutrition and access to quality food, and enhance economic development by encouraging the development of grocery stores in neighborhoods where none exist.

**Governance**

1. Adopt the recommendations of the Virginia Commission on Local Government in its 2018 Annexation Moratorium Study, and urge the General Assembly to enact those recommendations in the 2019 Session.
2. Amend Code of Virginia 51.1-155.2 to allow Constitutional Offices, abolished by reversion of any city to town status, to take early VRS retirement, free of penalty.
3. Urge the General Assembly to conform the state tax code to the 2018 changes in the Federal income tax code.
4. Require full funding for HB 599 funds, in fulfillment of the Commonwealth's commitment to cities in return for their acquiescence in the annexation moratorium.
5. Require that the Commonwealth fully fund its obligations to the Virginia Retirement System, and refrain from borrowing from VRS funds.
6. Request the elimination of "local aid to the Commonwealth" in the state budget; local aid artificially inflates state revenues by shifting responsibility for cuts in vital services onto localities.
7. Elimination of all unfunded mandates from the Commonwealth to localities.
8. Oppose any elimination or alteration of local revenue streams, and specifically oppose any amendment to the current manner in which the Business Occupation and Licensing Tax and the Machinery and Tools Tax are levied, unless a replacement revenue stream, not subject to biennial appropriation, is guaranteed by the Commonwealth.
9. Preserve intact local authority to regulate zoning, land use, and regulation of the installation of wireless communication equipment.
10. Request at a minimum, level funding for operational requirements of the Henry-Martinsville Department of Social Services.
11. Request that the General Assembly leaves intact the fire programs fund and the rescue squad assistance funds and not use these funds as a way to balance the state budget.
12. Request that the Commonwealth fully fund its obligations to constitutional officers.
13. Oppose any attempt to curtail the doctrine of sovereign immunity for localities.
14. Oppose any attempt to permit collective bargaining for state and local government employees.
15. Oppose any amendment of the existing burden of proof or process in local tax appeals cases.

16. Request authority to refund erroneously paid taxes at an interest rate which differs from that imposed on delinquencies, and to refund taxes erroneously paid through the fault of the taxpayer at no interest.
17. Support VML's endorsement of a JLARC study of assigning a proportional share of lottery sales revenue to the localities generating such sales.
18. Require the Commonwealth to fund 100% of the per-diem costs of housing state inmates in local jails.
19. Support all state efforts to provide aid and support services to fiscally stressed localities, but oppose any attempts to interfere with localities' right to solve their own financial problems locally.
20. Support the alteration of award criteria in the "REACH Virginia" and all other VHDA programs to a per-capita income-based model.

**United States Congress**

1. Request the addition of the urban center of micropolitan statistical areas to the eligibility list of "Entitlement Cities."
2. Oppose any effort to impose additional taxation or regulation of electrical power generation by coal or natural gas.
3. Urge the Federal Highway Commission to adopt the CTB's designated route for I-73, or alternatively to preserve the current record of decision in the event the CTB's route is rejected.
4. In the short term, upgrade those portions of Route 220 overlaying I-73 to interstate standards.
5. Request \$3.72M in funds for the redevelopment of brownfields extending from the former American Furniture and Sara Lee sites, along Aaron Street, to Rives Road.
6. Request \$6.25M in funds for the elimination and redevelopment of blighted areas in the city.
7. Request legislation to provide special federal incentives to businesses locating in regions which have experienced job losses in excess of 5% of the total workforce and/or declines in median incomes since the adoption of NAFTA, WTO or GATT. Target such areas for increased federal funding in education or workforce retraining.
8. Extend high speed broadband service throughout southern Virginia.
9. Request enhanced state and federal financial assistance for localities which exceed the average state unemployment rate by 150% for a period of five consecutive years.
10. Oppose the elimination or reduction of the federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit.

**Staff Designations**

City Council empowers the following staff members to speak on its behalf and in its best interests to the Virginia General Assembly and United States Congress, its members and committees:

City Attorney: Eric Monday  
City Manager: Leon Towarnicki  
Other department heads as appointed by the City Manager

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Consent Agenda as presented. Council Member Bowles seconded the motion with all Council Members voting in favor.

Business from the Floor – No requests for comment were received

Comments by City Council – Council Member Turner and others will be visiting Arlington cemetery to place wreaths on Martinsville veteran graves and will be recognizing ten others at other cemeteries. Council Member Bowles wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and hopes everyone will be safe. Bowles wished a happy belated birthday to Council Member Turner. Bowles asked if Skyline was doing annual tree trimming on behalf of the City and wanted to



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thank them for that. Vice Mayor Martin attended a funeral for a local youth who committed suicide, his heart goes out to the family. He encourages residents to visit New College website to get information on some amazing new programs and certifications. Mayor Lawson called the fire department recently for concerns she had at home; she wanted to thank them for their professionalism and problem-solving skills. Lawson thanked Council Member Woods, Council Member Turner and City Manager Towarnicki for helping with flags put out for Pearl Harbor Day. She and Council Member Turner participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony at Racers Edge Car Wash, she welcomed them to the area. Effective January 1, laws will change where you can not hold any electrical device such as cell phones in your hand while driving. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and she hopes residents will be safe. There will be no other Council meetings in December.

Comments by the City Manager – City Manager Towarnicki updated Council on the CARES funding to help City utility customers who have agreed to a payment plan. Those funds must be spent by the end of 2020. There was around \$115,000 used as of last week. The utility assistance program cutoff is Friday. There was a municipal utilities fund which was made available, the application was quickly submitted and he received notification that the City will receive another \$205,000 which will need to be distributed by the end of the year to assist in delinquent utility accounts. Those funds can not be used on accounts with payment plans or delinquent accounts prior to March 2020. Any money not spent would need to be returned.

There being no further business, Council Member Bowles made a motion to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Council Member Turner with all Council Members voting in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:40pm

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Karen Roberts  
Clerk of Council

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Kathy Lawson  
Mayor